Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

# Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 126074
ORIGIN SSO-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 /011 R

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DRAFTED BY: DAVID G WAGNER S/S-O
APPROVED BY : S/S-O TMARTIN
----------013203 180842Z /23
O 180811Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 126074

FOLLOWING REPEAT SANTO DOMINGO 2651 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO
CARACAS LONDON PANAMA PORT AU PRINCE USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ
MAY 18.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 2651

LONDON FOR ARA DAS BUSHNELL

PANAMA FOR ROBERT PASTOR, NSC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, PGOV, DR
SUBJECT: SITREP AS OF 2:00 A.M. THURSDAY, MAY 18

1. ASSESSING ALL EVIDENCE AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY SINCE MILITARY
MOVED IN AND SHUT DOWN JCE AT 4 A.M. YESTERDAY MORNING, WE
CANNOT CONCLUDE OTHERWISE THAN THAT PRESIDENT BALAGUER AND DOMINICAN
MILITARY HAVE DECIDED TO VOUCHSAFE HIS "REELECTION" ON ANY
PRETEXT OPEN TO THEM, PLAUSIBLE OR NOT.

2. WE ALSO DETECT SIGNS WITHIN GOVERNMENT POWER CENTERS OF
INDECISION AND PERHAPS DISARRAY, AS IF THEIR ACTIONS HAD NOT
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BEEN THOUGHT THROUGH. THE UNCERTAINTIES MANIFEST IN THE LACK
OF CLEAR DECISION-MAKING BY BALAGUER HIMSELF SINCE INTERRUPTION
OF THE ELCTORAL PROCESS SUGGEST HE AND HIS ASSOCIATES FIND
THEMSELVES IN A BLIND ALLEY.

3. IN OUR VIEW, THE ONLY COURSE THEY NOW SEE OPEN TO THEM
APPEARS TO BE TO BRAZEN THE THING OUT AND HOPE THAT WHATEVER COMES

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AFTER WILL EVENTUALLY GO AWAY. THERE ARE THESE INDICATORS:

A. THE SILENCE OF THE GOVERNMENT ON WHAT IS ACTUALLY AHPPENING- EXCEPT FOR ARMED FORCES' DENIAL OF COUP D'ETAT, AND THEN ONLY AFTER ANXIOUS RUMORS IN ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY REACHED ALARMING LEVELS, JCE "ANNOUNCEMENT" VOTE-COUNT WAS BEING RESUMED, BALAGUER'S IMPROBABLE EXPLANATIONS FOR PRESENT STATE OF AFFAIRS TO OAS OBSERVERS, AND FINALLY, HIS DISINGENUOUS REPLY TO MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY VANCE.

B. THE UNPLUGGING OF OUR CONTACTS WITH THE REFORMISTA PARTY, GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY CONTACTS. AS WITH THE EVASIVENESS OF THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISERS WHEN AMBASSADOR YOST URGENTLY SOUGHT TO MEET WITH BALAGUER, PRACTICALLY ALL EMBASSY LINES TO GOVERNMENT WENT DOWN AFTER THE JCE INTERVENTION. ONLY A FEW OLD FRIENDS WILL CONFIDE MOST PRIVATELY THAT THEFT OF THE ELECTION CONTINUES AFOOT AND; THEY ARE SADDENED BY THIS DEVELOPMENT; OTHERS BEGAN PARROTING WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE GOVERNMENT'S DEVELOPING LINE TO EXPLAIN RECENT EVENTS: THAT THE INTERVENTION WAS TRIGGERED BY FRAUDULENT TACTICS OF THE PRD, PERHAPS IN CAHOOTS WITH THE JCE.

C. THE BACK AND FORTH OVER THE ANNOUNCEMENT AT 8:30 WEDNESDAY EVENING THAT THE VOTE-COUNT WAS RESUMING. SHORTLY AROUND 7 O'CLOCK WE HAD BEEN INFORMED BY PUBLIC RELATIONS MAN OF ARMED FORCES SECRETARIAT THAT NONE OTHER THAN NATIONAL JCE PRESIDENT CASTILLO WOULD GO ON TELEVISION AT 8 P.M. TO EXPLAIN EVERYTHING
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AND TO REASSURE THE PEOPLE THE ELECTIONS WOULD BE CLEAN, FAIR, ETC. INSTEAD, AFTER MUCH CONFUSION ON THE PUBLIC AIRWAVES, THE JCE "ANNOUNCEMENT" WAS READ BY AN UNIDENTIFIED "SPOKESMAN." CASTILLO HAS DROPPED FROM SIGHT, PRESUMABLY STAYING OUT OF HARM'S WAY; THE FAMILY OF HIS COLLEAGUE IN SANTIAGO REPORTS THE LATTER DETAINED AND RELEASED AND IS NOW REPORTED TO BE IN HIDING.

4. FROM STRONG REPRESENTATIONS WE HAVE CONVEYED SINCE THE INTERVENTION IN THE VOTING AND OUR NEAR-WARNINGS PRIOR TO THAT ACT, IT IS CLEAR BALAGUER AND HIS ASSOCIATES KNOW EXACTLY WHAT WE WISH TO PRESS UPON THEM. SECRETARY VANCE'S MESSAGE WILL HAVE LEFT NO ONE IN THE GODR IN DOUBT AS TO OUR DEEP CONCERN OVER TURN IN EVENTS.

5. PERHAPS TOMORROW, WHEN THE GOVERNMENT WILL FIND ATTITUDES FURTHER HARDENED AGAINST IT, IT WILL TAKE PAUSE TO RECONSIDER THE DANGEROUS COURSE ON WHICH IT HAS EMBARKED. TONIGHT, WE SEE NO DISPOSITION OF THIS HAPPENING. IN THE MEANTIME PRESSURE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY (AS PRESIDENT PEREZ CLEARLY SEES - CARACAS 4531) WILL COTNINUE TO BE IMPORTANT TO CONTAINING THE SITUATION.
YOST UNQUOTE VANCE

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# Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED
**Concepts:** SITREP, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS
**Control Number:** n/a
**Copy:** SINGLE
**Draft Date:** 18 may 1978
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960
**Decaption Note:**
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED
**Disposition Approved on Date:**
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW
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**Disposition Event:**
**Disposition History:** n/a
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a
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**SAS ID:** 2649867
**Secure:** OPEN
**Status:** NATIVE
**Subject:** SITREP AS OF 2:00 A.M. THURSDAY, MAY 18
**TAGS:** PINT, PEPR, PGOV, PINR, DR
**To:** BOGOTA SAN JOSE
**Type:** TE
**vdkvgwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/77be309b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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